

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 SAJ-01 AGR-10 /110 W

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R 271500Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8837

INFO EC COLLECTIVE 50

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 4668

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJ: NETHERLANDS DROUGHT SITUATION REPORT NO. 5

REF: TOFAS-677

1. WEATHER; PRECIPITATION THUS FAR IN AUGUST AND FORECASTS FOR NEXT 3 DAYS STRONGLY INDICATE THAT THIS MONTH WILL TURN UP AS DRIEST OF AN ALREADY VERY DRY SUMMER. NORMALLY, AUGUST IS RAINIEST MONTH IN HOLLAND.

2. IMPACT OF (NEW) DROUGHT ON SELECTED AGRICULTURAL CROP PRODUCTION:

(A) GRAINS: HARVESTING NEARLY COMPLETE. WIDELY VARYING YIELDS REPORTED BY AREA.

(B) PULSES: RIPENING OF BROWN AND WHITE BEANS HAS BEEN HIGHLY ACCELERATED. CONDITION RANGES FROM FAIR TO BAD. HARVESTING STARTED AROUND MID-AUGUST. YIELDS THUS FAR ARE RANGING BETWEEN HALF TO ONE-THIRD LESS THAN NORMAL.

(C) ONIONS FROM SEED: IN SOME AREAS NORMAL AVERAGE YIELDS OF BETWEEN 35-40 TONS/HA ARE EXPECTED. IN OTHER MAIN PRO-
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DUCING AREAS YIELDS ARE EXPECTED NOT TO EXCEED 15-20 TONS/HA.

(D) SUGARBEETS: IN SOUTHERN AND WESTERN CLAY AREAS CONDIDION IS STILL REASONABLE BUT INFLUENCE OF NEW DROUGHT PERIOD NOTICEABLE. SAMPLES TAKEN ON AUG. 9 STILL SHOW SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN NORMAL BEET WEIGHT AND OVER 20 PERCENT HIGHER SUGAR YIELDS/HECTARE,BUT EXPECTED TO CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY IN SO FAR AS BEET WEIGHT IS CONCERNED.

(E) POTATOES: WARE (CONSUMPTION) POTATOES IN MOST MAJOR PRODUCING CLAY AREAS SHOW STRONG SECOND GROWTH WITH CONSEQUENT HIGH NUMBER OF BULBS PER PLANT BUT SMALL SIZES. ON LIGHTER SOILS CROP DYING DUE TO LACK OF WATER. LITTLE GROWTH REPORTED IN INDUSTRIAL POTATOES AND YIELDS OF BETWEEN 5-15 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL EXPECTED, BUT STARCH CONTENT HIGHER.

(F) CORN FOR SILAGE: CONDITION SOMEWHAT IMPROVED AFTER RAINS END JULY/EARLY AUGUST BUT EARING ON SANDY SOILS FAIR TO BAD AND PLANTS SHORT TO VERY SHORT.

(G) ALFALFA: GROWTH REPORTEDLY SLOW.

(H) GRASSLAND: GROWTH HAS COME TO COMPLETE STANDSTILL ON SANDY SOILS GRASSLAND CONDITION FOR GRAZING VERY BAD.

(I) FORAGE CROPS: SPROUTING OF RYE GRASSES, ROOT CROPS, ETC., SOWN EARLY AUGUST UNDER SPECIAL PROGRAM (TOFAS-638)

(PAR.3) ON GRAIN. HARVESTED LAND WAS FAVORABLY INFLUENCED BY RAINS BUT NOW BADLY SUFFERING FROM DROUGHT. THUS FAR SOME 10,000 HECTARES HAVE BEEN SOWN TO RYE GRASSLANDS UNDER THE PROGRAM. DEMAND ALREADY EXCEEDS THIS AREA.

3. GON ACTIONS: MINAG EXTEND PERIOD FOR GUARANTEE PAYMENT (TOFAS 638 PARA 3A) FROM AUGUST 15 TO END AUGUST. MINAG HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED SPEED-UP IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT LOW INTEREST RATES UNDER SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO FARMERS WHO HAVE BADLY SUFFERED LOSSES FROM DROUGHT.

4. ON AUGUST 26 MINAG PUBLICALLY ESTIMATED DROUGHT DAMAGE TO DUTCH AGRICULTURE WILL BE BETWEEN 1 AND 2 BILLION GUILDERS (2.64. GUILDERS EQUAT \$1.00). CHAIRMAN OF LANDBOUWSCHAP (FARMERS ORGANIZATION) HAS ANNOUNCED MINAG ESTIMATE EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVE. ACCORDING TO LANDBOUWSCHAP DAMAGE WILL BE AT MINIMUM NOT LESS THAN 2 BILLION GUILDERS.
BROWN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DROUGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976THEHA04668
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760328-1030
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760810/aaaaaipr.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2005 by morandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NETHERLANDS DROUGHT SITUATION REPORT NO. 5
TAGS: EAGR, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006